

[Burlington Free Press](#)

Peter Welch of Vermont and three other Democratic congressmen will re-lease legislation today aimed at trimming the ballooning national deficit by more than \$70 billion in the next 10 years.

Republicans in Congress have been roundly criticizing Democratic leaders for proposing programs that spend more at a time the deficit has grown vastly as a percentage of the U.S. economy's output. Welch is a founding member of the four-man working group that met to come up with cuts and savings.

The other members are Gary Peters of Michigan, who is chairing the group, John Adler of New Jersey, and Jim Himes of Connecticut.

Each is pushing his own proposal: Welch wants to implement cuts the Defense Department is already calling for among its own systems. He would also require that the defense secretary consolidate military exchanges for efficiency savings.

Welch's office said those proposals could be worth \$2.6 billion in 2011 and at least \$4.1 billion over 10 years. Other proposals include Sen. Peters' call to eliminate tax loop-holes for oil companies and redundant federal research spending; Adler's to implement electronic pay stubs for Treasury employees and eliminate the Overseas Private Investment Corp., which subsidizes companies that invest abroad; and Himes' to reduce commodity payments to wealthy farmers and cut the reimbursement rate to private crop insurers.